West. Theo. Seminary Nov. 1st 1847

Dear Brethren

It is always gratifying to us to hear from you and all others in like circumstances. We are all preparing for the same great work, looking forward in anticipation of the same labors, trials, and difficulties, and awaiting the same eternal reward. No relations of men should excite such warm sympathies, such ardent affection, and introduce such unity of spirit as the gospel Ministry. In this relation there are no selfish ends to subserve. Our labors are confined to no particular district or country. Our object is not the conquest of any particular earthly Kingdom, but our sole aim is to restore all the kingdoms of the earth to their rightful King. We are not serving under separate and distinct leaders, entertaining dissordent views, and having different modes of operation. One is our Commander — One is our Master — Christ the King and Head of his church.

Therefore it is proper for us who are preparing to be under Shepherds to cultivate all those fraternal, high and holy feelings which will enable us to act as one man in the great theatre of conflict upon which the true Church of God is now entering. Thus we will not only adorn the doctrine of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; but through the assistance and blessing of God, will be able to attack successfully the strongholds of Sin and Satan.

The Enemies of our Lord are arranging themselves in formidable phalanxes. Their leaders are able

and skilful. Their troops are drilled with the utmost precision, their ranks are full and closely filled. And however different their modes of operation may be, they all have the same great tendency - the subversion of pure & undefiled religion and consequently the destruction of the souls of men. - However we are not as those who have no hope, for their God is not as our God, our enemies though being judges. Christ is a conqueror as well as 'the Prince of peace', and 'the kingdom and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heavens' shall soon be given unto him. 'Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice, from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.' - The gospel committed to 'earthen vessels' is the instrumentality by which the work is to be accomplished. The earth is to be filled with the knowledge of the Lord, and then the day which Prophets and Apostles long desired to see will have arrived. 'The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death upon them hath the light shined.' ———. The world is now open to christian effort for its evangelization. The days foretold in prophecy have either commenced or are near at hand. The labors for the people of God in prospect are abundant, and the struggle will undoubtedly be long and arduous, but through God strengthening us we can do all things

Owing to our peculiar condition in reference to position, in the 'great Valley' we have many opportunities of observing the introduction and progress of faint heresies, and the subtle, insinuating, yet comprehensive plans of the man of Sin. Every Minister expecting to go west- if he must be prepared to eradicate, in a Christian manner, the covert Spirit of Arminianism and Socinianism from the Minds of the people. For these doctrines so congenial to the human heart- seem to have taken entire possession of many parts of the western field. And Campbellism in its most rampant- form is to be met in almost every village. The Adherents of Rome are making efforts worthy of a better cause. On the hill opposite our institution there is a Catholic Seminary for the Education (professedly) of young Priests. But the most- of them are foreigners who have been educated in Europe, and are placed here for a time merely for the purpose of studying the character of our heterogeneous population and gaining information as to the most useful points of occupancy. Some of these young priests in our midst- are undoubtedly men of talent and fine acquirements, of courteous and agreable manners, and evidently well prepared to operate on the masses of society.

Let us then gird ourselves for the work, and relying on divine aid go forward manifesting the same zeal in propagating the true religion of Christ- as they do in laboring to promote the glory and power of Rome. — A vast field is opening to us in the west that must be supplied

with a pure and evangelical ministry in a few years, or errorists and infidels will in a short time have taken possession of the land. —. We pray and long for the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom in every land. Earnestly do we beseech the Lord to send out many heralds of Salvation to the dark plains of the earth which are now full of the habitations of cruelty. — But at the same time we earnestly desire all who feel it their duty to remain in their native land, to direct their attention to the wants of the West & South West. God in his mysterious providence is preparing great things for the people of God in these parts of our land. Whatever may be the political result of our present difficulties with Mexico, all seem to consider one thing certain, viz that Mexico will soon be open to Protestant influence. It is our duty then to be prepared for the day of the Lord of hosts.

— No Foreign Missionaries went out from us during the last year, but we hope that God may raise up some of our present number to devote themselves to the work of the Ministry in heathen lands. — Our number will be about the same as last year. — The Professors enjoy their usual degree of health.

Brethren pray for us. 'Come over and help us.' Come to the West where there is a great work to be done. And may the God of peace be with you. And make you perfect in every good work to do his will working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

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